

The distribution of *Aretaon* in Borneo.

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Phasmida, *Aretaon*, Distribution, Sarawak, Sabah, Brunei, Borneo.

The distribution of the tribe Obrimini is quite limited; most of the known species are restricted to the Philippines, while some are native to New Guinea, Fiji or Borneo. The only bornean members are a few species of *Hoploclonia* Stål and *Aretaon* Rehn & Rehn. Members of the Obrimini are easily distinguished from other member of the Heteropteryginae which occur in Borneo by the presence of an operculum and the absence of wings. Members of the genus *Aretaon* can be easily distinguished on the basis of size; *Hoploclonia* do not exceed 40mm for males and 55mm for females, *Aretaon* are clearly larger with males at least 45mm and females at least 65mm.

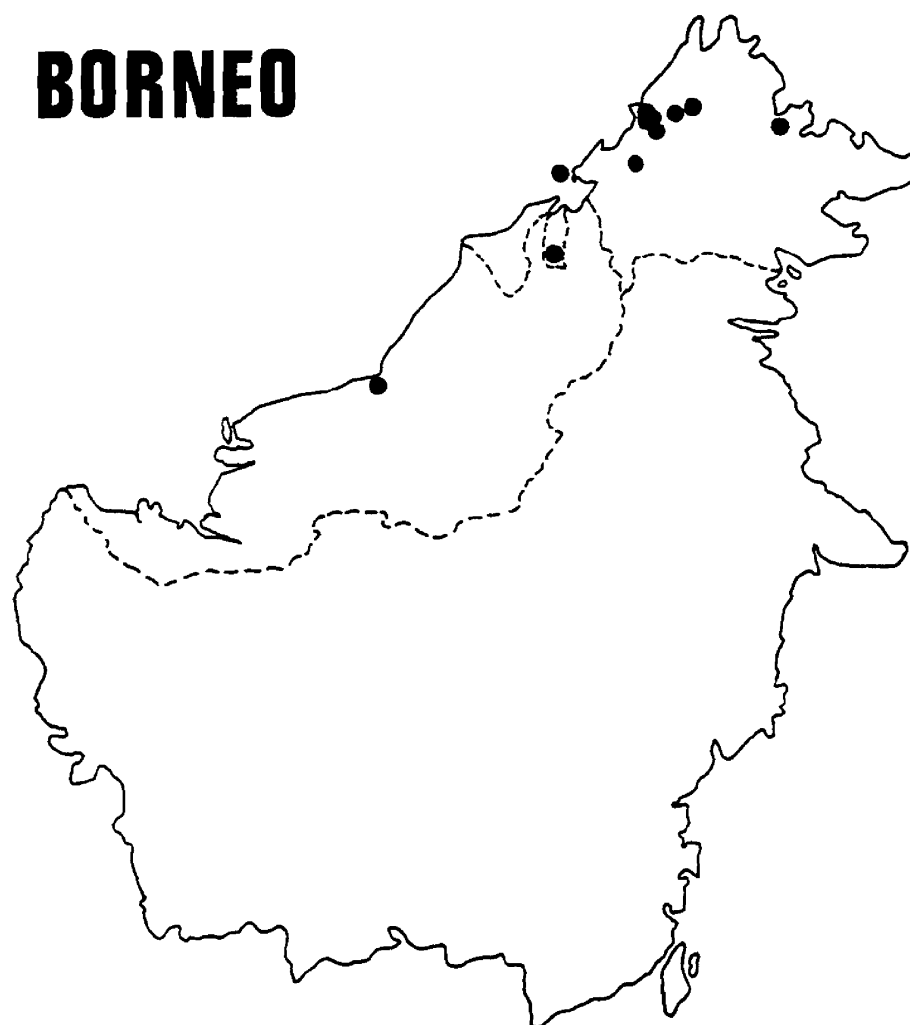


Figure 1. Distribution of *Aretaon* spp. in Borneo.

There are two species of *Aretaon* recorded from Borneo: *A. asperrimus* and *A. muscosus*, whether these are distinct species is doubtful as I have previously discussed (Bragg in Jennings, 1992: 26). The distribution of this genus is of particular interest to me; I have found several thousands of phasmids in Borneo during the past few years, many of them Heteropteryginae, but I have never seen *Aretaon* in Sarawak. Most of my collecting has been done in western Sarawak, about 60 nights ranging from two to ten hours per night. I have spent relatively little time in Brunei and

Sabah but have encountered *Aretaon* in both countries. The only specimen in the Sarawak Museum is from Sabah and a specimen in the Sarawak Forestry Department's collection is from Bintulu in the eastern half of Sarawak. The previously published records from Borneo are for Mt Kinabalu and the island of Labuan (Günther, 1935: 123), both are in the north east. These facts suggested that *Aretaon* may be restricted to the north east of the island.

During a recent visit to Borneo I had the opportunity to examine C.L. Chan's extensive collection of phasmids which are mainly from Sabah. I was interested to see the number of *Aretaon* from different localities, eight in Sabah and one in Brunei. My own records of this species overlap those of Chan's so including the Sarawak F.D. specimen there are eleven known localities, these are indicated on the map (Fig. 1); a number in the region around Kota Kinabalu overlap.

The distribution map emphasises the restricted nature of this genus. The recorded localities are as follows - BRUNEI: Kuala Belalong; SARAWAK: Bintulu Similanjau Forest Reserve; LABUAN; SABAH: Poring Springs, Babaggon, Ulu Dusun, Inanam, Bundu Tuhan, Kampung Madziang, Ulu Mayog, Kimanis logging road in the Crocker Range. The type locality of Mt Kinabalu has been ignored as it is not very specific, the mountain and its foothills covers a large area which includes Poring Springs, a locality which is included.

Another interesting aspect of Chan's collection was the variation in the size and number of spines on specimens, further evidence, although not conclusive, that *A. asperrimus* and *A. muscosus* may be a single species.

References

- Jennings, P. (1992) PSG 118, *Aretaon asperrimus* (Redtenbacher). *Phasmid Studies*, 1(2): 26-30.
Günther, K. (1935) Über einige Phasmoiden aus der Sammlung des Herrn Dr. C. Willemsse, Eijgelshoven. *Natuurhistorisch Maandblad*, 24: 123-126, 138-140.